TWF.10566

# IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

MID-ATLANTIC FINANCE CO., INC.	Ş	
Plaintiff,	S	
	Ş	CA No. 1.10 215
V.	S	Civil Action No. CA No. 1:19-cv-215
	S	
PRIME ASSET LLC d/b/a TEXAS	Ş	
DEALER SOLUTIONS, ASP FINANCE,	S	JURY DEMANDED
LLC d/b/a TEXAS DEALER	S	
SOLUTIONS, JAMES "KIP"	\$	
COCHRAN, KENNETH C. KEATE,	S	
ALAN C. KEATE, LAURA S. KEATE,	\$	
AND KYLE R. KEATE	\$	

## DEFENDANTS PRIME ASSET LLC AND ASP FINANCE, LLC'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(a), 1441(a), and 1446(a), named Defendants **PRIME ASSET LLC** ("Prime Asset") and **ASP FINANCE**, **LLC** ("ASP") file this Notice of Removal, hereby removing this case from the 250<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division. In support of this Notice of Removal, Prime Asset and ASP respectfully show the Court as follows:

#### A. INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff is Mid-Atlantic Finance Co., Inc. Defendants are Prime Asset, LLC d/b/a Texas Dealer Solutions ("Prime Asset"), ASP Finance, LLC d/b/a Texas Dealer Solutions ("ASP"), James "Kip" Cochran, Kenneth C. Keate, Alan C. Keate, Laura S. Keate, and Kyle R. Keate (collectively referred to as "Defendants").

- 2. On February 21, 2019, Plaintiff filed suit against Defendants for trade secret misappropriation, breach of fiduciary duty, theft liability act, and exemplary damages in the 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, styled as "*Mid-Atlantic Finance Co., Inc. v. Prime asset LLC d/b/a Texas Dealer Solutions, et al.*," Case No. D-1-GN-19-000954 (the "lawsuit" or "suit")
- 3. Prime Asset and ASP received notice of the lawsuit on or about February 22, 2019. Prime Asset and ASP file this notice of removal within the 30-day time period required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1).

#### B. BASIS FOR REMOVAL

- 4. Removal is proper because there is complete diversity between the parties. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Plaintiff is a citizen of Clearwater, Florida. Plaintiff's principal place of business is also located in Clearwater, Florida. Additionally, the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000. Specifically, Plaintiff pled for monetary relief "over \$200,000 but not more than \$1,000,000." *See* Plaintiff's Petition, Exhibit 1, ¶ 1; 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(a) and 1446(c).
- 5. All Defendants who have been properly joined and served join in or consent to the removal of this case to this federal court. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A).
- 6. Copies of all pleadings, process, orders, and other filings in the state-court lawsuit are attached to this notice as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).
- 7. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) because the state court where the suit is pending is located in this district.
- 8. Defendant will promptly file a copy of this notice of removal with the clerk for the 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County where this suit has been pending.

#### C. JURY DEMAND

9. Plaintiff did not demand a jury in the state-court suit. Prime Asset and ASP now make a demand for a jury.

#### D. CONCLUSION

10. For these reasons, Prime Asset and ASP, with consent from the remaining Defendants, asks the Court to remove this suit to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendants PRIME ASSET LLC AND ASP FINANCE, LLC respectfully request the civil action currently pending in the 250<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas as Cause Number D-1-GN-19-000954 be removed to this Court, and for such other and further relief, both general and special, at law and in equity, to which Defendants may show themselves justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FEE, SMITH, SHARP & VITULLO, L.L.P.

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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS PRIME ASSET, LLC AND ASP FINANCE, LLC

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This Will Certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been mailed, telecopied or hand delivered to all attorneys of record in this cause of action on the day of March, 2019 as follows:

Joshua J. White Haley & Olson, P.C. 100 N. Ritchie Road, Suite 200 Waco, Texas 76712

BRET A. SANDERS